



August 3, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I ask that you sign the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 2272), which recently passed both chambers of Congress. This vital legislation recognizes the importance of innovation, research and education in sustaining a strong American economy.

For the past two years, AAAS has seen impressive signs of collaboration between the branches of government and across party and regional lines on how to best meet this challenge. Your American Competitiveness Initiative is one example and the congressional innovation bill is yet another. We encourage you to build upon these partnerships and enact this authorizing legislation. The investments made today in research and education will pay large dividends in our nation's future as an innovative and competitive society.

AAAS, the world's largest multi-disciplinary science society and publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*, representing the interests of 10 million scientists worldwide, stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner